Calendar No. 1516

82D CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1587

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MAY 20 1952
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ENABLING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ISSUE CERTAIN BONDS FOR FLOOD-CONTROL PURPOSES

MAY 21 (legislative day, MAY 12), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'MAHONEY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4801]

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill H. R. 4801 to enable the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii to authorize the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu to issue certain bonds for flood-control purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of $1,000,000. The enactment of the bill would ratify and confirm Act 204 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1951, authorizing the issuance of these bonds.

Congressional approval of this bond issue is necessary since the amount involved, when included in the outstanding indebtedness of the city and county, would exceed the debt limitation of 5 percent prescribed by section 55 of the Hawaiian Organic Act.

No expenditure of Federal funds is required.

Hearings were held by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs at which time witnesses testified that floods and tidal waves during the period December 13, 1950, to March 26, 1951, in the district involved, caused damage estimated at $3,000,000. The area covered by this flood-control program involves 100 square miles where more than 20,000 homes and businesses are located.

The Department of the Interior in its report to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends the enactment of the bill, and the Bureau of the Budget advises there is no objection

to the submission of the Interior Department report, which report is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., December 5, 1951.

Hon. JOHN R. MURDOCK,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: Further reference is made to your request for the Department's views on H. R. 4801, a bill to enable the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii to authorize the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu to issue certain bonds for flood-control purposes.

I recommend that this bill be enacted.

H. R. 4801 would ratify and confirm Act 204 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1951, authorizing the city and county of Honolulu, a municipal corporation of the Territory of Hawaii, to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of $1,000,000 for flood control and related purposes. Congressional approval is required since such an amount of bonds, if included in the outstanding indebtedness of the city and county, would exceed the debt limitation of 5 percent of the assessed valuation of property in the city and county of Honolulu prescribed by section 55 of the Hawaiian Organic Act (48 U. S. C., 1946 ed., sec. 562).

Funds derived from the proposed bond issue would be used to carry out a flood-control program designed to prevent further damage from floods in 21 districts in the island of Oahu, covering an area of over 100 square miles, where more than 20,000 homes and businesses are located. The estimated damage to property in these districts caused by floods during the period from December 13, 1950, to March 26, 1951, amounted to $3,000,000.

The Legislature of Hawaii by joint resolution has requested enactment of legislation similar to H. R. 4801.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

MASTIN G. WHITE,
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

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